

month beyond the deadline for producing a Federal budget, and the Democrat-controlled House will not pass a budget for the next fiscal year. This will be the first time since 1974 that the House fails to pass a budget, and passing a budget is important.

The budget provides a fiscal blueprint for moving forward and addressing the deficits and debt. It provides the bigger picture in which fits all of the smaller things that Congress works on throughout the year.

American families and businesses budget all the time, making difficult choices necessary to remain solvent. So must government. Failing to consider a budget does not make the budget problems go away. It simply provides more proof that the current leadership in Congress has no plan for dealing with all this mounting debt and deficit—at least no plans that it wants the American people to know about.

COMPETITION AMONG GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS IS KEY

(Mr. DRIEHAUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Mr. Speaker, if we're serious about reducing spending, we should be promoting competition among government contractors, not stifling it. We know from experience that a competitive engine program for our military aircraft drives down long-term costs and leads to a more reliable product for our Armed Forces. That's why competitive procurement has long been the policy of the Federal Government, and that's why we need a competitive engine program for the Joint Strike Fighter.

But the primary contractor responsible for the upcoming F-35 Joint Strike Fighter engine doesn't want to play by the rules. They want to be declared the winner of the race while all of the contestants are still at the starting line. The development of a competitive engine is 75 percent complete and is expected to be available to the military 5 years ahead of initial projections. The competitive contractor has twice offered a fixed price to complete this project, ensuring production won't be burdened with cost overruns.

I urge all of my colleagues to do what's responsible to taxpayers and responsible to our men and women in uniform: Support the Joint Strike Fighter Competitive Engine Program.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PASS A BUDGET

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, media reports indicate that House Democrats will not only not pass a budget, but they won't even try. It's no surprise that they're unwilling to put their blueprint on the House floor, be-

cause it would be the clearest sign yet that their reckless spending has put our country's solvency in doubt and endangered our future's generations. But I am only judging them by their own words.

In 2006 then-House Minority Whip STENY HOYER said that passing a budget was the most basic function of government, and I agree. That same year, then-House Budget Committee Ranking Member JOHN SPRATT said, if you can't pass a budget, you can't govern. And Speaker PELOSI said in 2002 that failing to pass a budget hurts children.

This means, by their own standard, the standard in which they judge Republicans, Democrats aren't able to govern. House Republicans have said for months that Democrats are unfit to govern based on current policies. Now their own judgements agree with us.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for hope and change and a budget.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO PASS A BUDGET

(Mr. AUSTRIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is making history for all the wrong reasons as our national debt reaches \$13 trillion. Today, we still have no budget, no plan to rein in this out-of-control spending. For the first time in recent history, the House will fail to even propose a budget at a time when the American people are demanding fiscal responsibility.

Our national debt has now hit astronomical proportions, and without a budget, this spending will almost certainly continue to grow.

A recent Rasmussen poll found that only 21 percent think that today's children will be better off than their parents. Only 21 percent. And one of the main reasons that our children are going to be in a tough spot is that they are going to be footing the bill tomorrow for our irresponsible spending today.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for Congress to address the issues facing our Nation in a fiscally responsible manner. We need to show constraint, set spending guidelines, make tough decisions, and eliminate wasteful spending programs.

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BUDGET COMMITTEE DOESN'T MEET

(Mrs. LUMMIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I am on the Budget Committee, but the Budget Committee doesn't meet. Maybe the reason the Budget Committee doesn't meet is because they don't want you to see this chart.

If we look at this chart, and we look at the blue lines, the blue lines are pri-

private-sector employment. It is the private economy employment, the job creators, the revenue creators. Look at the Bush years, those are the years going up. Bush, Bush, Bush, Bush, Bush. Look at the PELOSI years. Those are the years going down. PELOSI, PELOSI, PELOSI.

The private-sector jobs dropped under NANCY PELOSI. They went up under George Bush. Now look at the red line. The red line is George Bush. The red line for government employment is flat.

But look at the PELOSI line. The PELOSI line for government employment goes up, up, up, up.

So, under PELOSI, private-sector jobs go down. Government jobs go up. The private sector pays for the public sector, but there are no private-sector jobs. Maybe that's why the Budget Committee won't meet, Mr. Speaker.

NO BUDGET RESOLUTION IN PLACE

(Mr. JORDAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 40 days. April 15 by law is when we are supposed to have a budget resolution in place. And yet here we are, 40 days later, no budget resolution.

No budget when we have a \$1.4 trillion deficit, \$12 trillion national debt. I mean, look, let's just be honest; the Democrats are going to take a pass. They are just going to take a pass on setting priorities and establishing a budget, and they are just going to keep spending. American families, American small business owners, they don't get to take a pass.

I am reminded of the old TV ad—I think it was the Wendy's restaurant who had this ad. The lady walks up and she says as she is handed the bun, "Where's the beef?"

I think the same thing is being asked by the American people. They are going to be handed the bill. They are asking the question, where's the budget? Where's the priorities, where's the guidelines, where's the work we are supposed to do. Where is it being done? Why isn't it being done?

Let's get focused, and let's do a budget that actually sets priorities, sets the spending guideline and actually balances. Imagine doing something like that.

TIME FOR DEMOCRATS TO GET RID OF THEIR LEGISLATIVE POLICY OF "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, oh when, oh when will the majority party get rid of its legislative policy of "don't ask, don't tell"? We saw it when we were dealing